



Motorized Travel Management Litigation **Frequently Asked Questions** Stanislaus National Forest May 2014

Background

1. When did the Stanislaus designate its public motorized system?

The decision to designate 136.77 miles of off highway vehicle trails and dispersed campsites along with converting 62.17 miles of roads to trails was made in November 2009 in an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. The decision also continued to allow public use on the authorized system.

2. Where can I find a copy of that decision and other documents?

The decision documents, maps, and reports can be found at the Stanislaus National Forest website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus/>.

3. When was the complaint filed regarding the 2009 decision?

The complaint was filed in the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO DIVISION on August 12, 2010.

4. Who filed the complaint?

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center; The Wilderness Society; and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

Complaint

5. Where can I find a copy of the complaint and other documents?

The complaint, the judge's decision, and the settlement agreement will be posted on the Stanislaus National Forest website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus/> by May 31, 2014.

Settlement Agreement

6. How am I affected by the settlement agreement?

Most of the recreational opportunities approved in the 2009 Record of Decision will continue to be available to the public. Under the settlement, 40.34 miles of off highway vehicle routes will not be opened to public motorized use for an indefinite period of time. Currently, 18.19 miles or 49 trail segments are open to the public and will be closed, effective May 23, 2014. Additionally, 22.15 miles or 37 trail segments required mitigation



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measures to be completed prior to being opened for public access. These routes will remain closed.

7. What routes are affected and where?

Interim closures are located on the Calaveras, Mi-Wok, and Groveland Ranger Districts. A list of routes can be found on the website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus/> by May 31, 2014. A new motor vehicle use map (MVUM) is now available. The MVUM shows the routes that are open to public motorized use. Closed routes are not shown on this map.

8. When will the settlement agreement start and how long will it last?

The Forest is making the revised Motor Vehicle Use Maps available on May 23, 2014. The remaining terms of the agreement will start to be implemented on May 23, 2014 and will continue for an indefinite period of time.

9. Why wasn't I told about this agreement before?

This agreement was just approved by the United States and filed with the court on May 23, 2014. The negotiations and the terms of the agreement were confidential and could not be disclosed to the public until it was filed with the court.

10. What else does the Forest Service have to do under the settlement?

In addition to the limited route closures, and publishing a new motor vehicle use map, the Forest Service will continue mitigation efforts on the trail system, and undertake a process to show how it is applying the Travel Rule to the 2009 decision.

11. How will the interim closures be enforced?

Immediate enforcement efforts will focus on advising visitors of the changes and providing information to public land users. We understand it takes time for people to become familiar with changes in policy. After about a week or two, we will continue those educational efforts, but also begin to actively enforce the closures by issuing citations. At all times, our enforcement officers will have the discretion to issue citations in the case of resource damage or gross negligence.



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Next Steps

12. What will the Forest Service do next?

The next steps are to undertake a process to show how the Forest is applying the Travel Rule to the 2009 decision.

13. How will the public be involved?

The public will be notified how it can become involved when the strategy is developed.

14. Who do I contact for more information?

Contact the front desks at the district ranger offices and supervisor's office for information on where the route closures are. For other questions, please contact Sue Warren at swarren@fs.fed.us.